

## WATCHFULNESS.

[An essay read at Ashland S. S.—April 21, by Miss Sadie Berkley.]

"Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matt. 24: 42.

Jesus had been speaking of going away, and his disciples desired to know when he would come again, and he gave them the above answer. Jesus had been prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem, and the disciples, joining its destruction with his Messianic triumph, had asked when these things should be and what would be the sign of his coming, he explains to them in regard to the fall of the great city, and then as was his custom; he turned aside from the direct answering of their question, to give them a teaching which was more profitable. Ye know not on what day—how beautifully and wisely he has planned all things—we know not what tomorrow will bring forth, joy or sorrow, weal or woe. Who of us would be brave enough to face our duty, if the unknown future were revealed to us, and we knew that sorrow and sadness should fill our lives? Death must come to all. When? None can tell, and on one wishes to know—the knowledge of that time is mercifully kept from us, and we should live as Christians ready to go when God calls. *Watch*, be ever ready to welcome the death angel. His call will be sweet to the ears of the Christian. Mr. Wesley was once asked by a lady, suppose you knew you would die to-night, how would you spend the intervening time? How, madam? he replied. Why just as I intend to spend it now. I should preach this night at Gloucester, and again at five o'clock to-morrow evening. I should ride to Pewbury, preach in the afternoon and meet the societies in the evening. I should then repair to friend Martin's house, who expects to entertain me, converse and pray with the family as usual, retire to my room at ten o'clock, commit myself into the keeping of my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in glory. How many of us could meet death so bravely and so peacefully? Whitfield used to say, I like to go to bed, feeling that if I should die to night, there is not so much as a pair of gloves out of place.

Watch, for the night is long,  
Watch, for the foe is strong,  
Watch, for the treasures dear,  
Watch, for the Lord is near.

Work, there is much to do,  
Work, love has toiled for you,  
Work, and you watch the best,  
Work, it will bring sweet rest.

The command is not that we simply fold our hands and do nothing; to watch prayerfully, as Jesus teaches that we shall,

means to do something. The person who is too lazy to pray, would also find the duty of simply watching, (allowing that it implies no action) too arduous a task for him. That sort of watching would grow monotonous, and he would give it up. To truly watch will keep us up and a doing.

The faithful servant is he who is ever anxious, willing and ready to serve his master. His service is not capricious, but uniform. The servant in league with his Lord is always ready for service. It was Cæsar's policy never to announce a march or an assault beforehand. His soldiers understood that they must be instantly ready for any possible order. The lesson teaches the result of faithfulness. He who proves himself worthy of trust shall be given trust. For the servant, faithful and wise, there are richer possessions and joys for ever and ever. It means so much to be prepared and ready for Christ's coming. Do you think a person who has spent his life wholly without Christ, would enjoy heavenly rest. No. For heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. Whitfield used to say that, if any ungodly man could go to heaven as he is, he would be so miserable there that he would ask to be allowed to run to hell for shelter.

I have heard of a king who, having a "fool" (or jester) in his court, gave him a walking-stick, with a charge never to part with it until he should meet a bigger fool than himself. He kept it for many a day, until at last when the monarch lay dying, the fool came and said: "Master, where are you going?" "Well," said he, "I am going to die. I am going to try the reality of another life." "How long are you going to stay there?" "Oh," said the monarch, "for ever and ever." "Have you prepared for the journey, and arranged for your life there?" "No," said the king, "I never thought of that." "Well, then," said the fool, "take the walking-stick. I play the fool with this life, but you have done worse than this." Oh! my friends, are we playing with eternity as this monarch did? Are we faithful servants, loyal to our master and the trust he has given us, and are we ready to meet Christ with a smile of welcome, and ready to hear the words, Well done, that good and faithful servant?

Let us watch and pray, lest we enter into temptation, and betray the trust given us.

Weary gleaner, in the field,  
Poor or plenty be the yield,  
Labor on for the Master, nothing fearing,  
There's a promise of reward, at the coming of the Lord,  
Unto all them that love his appearing.

Oh, how light will seem the grief,  
And the toilsome way, how brief;  
When a crown of glory we are wearing,  
Oh, the rapture who can tell, as forever there we dwell,  
With redeemed ones that love his appearing.

## AN APPRECIATION.

It is with a spirit of thankfulness and appreciation that I contribute these few lines to the columns of our worthy paper. Feeling, as I do that it is through the earnest, and zealous efforts of our brethren and sisters that we, (the theological students) have the privilege afforded us of preparing ourselves more fully for the work where unto we have been called. I consider these few words no more than that which is my duty, to express the pleasure which we have enjoyed during the year that is past. Had it not been for this privilege offered, I for one could not have enjoyed what I do enjoy. My prayer then is since you have manifested your interest in those who may thus improve their talent, that we may use our influence, and our talents, in such a way that it may be an honor to the cause and a furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the salvation of those who know not God, and to the extending of the borders of the Brethren church. Trusting that our labors in the future, may be such that you can feel assured that your sacrifices have not been in vain, and in the day of judgment be rewarded for your generosity, and Christian charity.

First, may I be permitted to extend my thanks to the supporters of the Theological department, and second to our teachers who have so cheerfully and graciously manifested their interest in us in giving us the necessary instructions in this line of work. I can truly say, and I believe I am voicing the sentiment of all our class that the instructions which we have received from Brethren Miller and Rensch have been of the best nature and character, for this department.

Four more weeks and another term will be closed, and it will be one of the many things in the past, and its work will be done, and as a student this year I can say, I have been pleased to note the satisfaction which has been given to the patrons of our school, believing that by next fall school will open with a good attendance. I remain yours for our Master's work.

S. B. GRISSE.

"AGAINST whom doth Satan multiply his malicious assaults? Against those in whom God has multiplied his graces. Satan is too crafty a pirate to attack an empty vessel; he seeks to rob those vessels only which are richly laden."